

Word Sort for the *it*, *ip*, and *ill* Families

Enlarge this sheet to a full 8 1/2 by 11 size. Cut apart the words. Lay down one familiar word for each family as headers. Those might be *sit*, *zip*, and *will*. Pick up another word such as *fit*. Put it under *sit* and say “Sit, fit.” Repeat this with several more words in different categories, each time reading down from the first word before reading the new word. Then invite the children to sort a word. Before reading the new word, they sort it and read the other words in the column (example: “sit, fit, hit”). When all the words have been sorted, lead the group in reading each column. Then ask the students how the words in each column are alike (they rhyme, they have the same last letter, they have the same vowel and last letter). The final sort will look something like this:

sit	zip	will
fit	lip	pill
hit	rip	fill
kit	tip	bill
pit	chip	mill
bit	dip	
	hip	

After doing this sort in a group, give each child a word sheet to cut apart and sort. Follow this up by having children work with a partner. The children put down a header for each category. One partner reads the word aloud but does not show it to the other partner. The other partner indicates the category by pointing or naming the header word. The word is then laid down and checked. If it is in the wrong category, it is put back in the reader’s pile to call again later. After all the words have been sorted, the partners change roles.

sit	zip	will
pill	lip	rip
pit	tip	chip
kit	dip	fill
bill	hip	hit
fit	bit	mill